

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS US XF

SUBJECT: ALLON-KISSINGER TALKS: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION

1. IN COMMENTING ON CURRENT ALLON-KISSINGER DISCUSSIONS
ISRAELI PRESS JAN 8-9 EXPRESSES CONCERN THAT THE US MAY
IN SUBSTANCE, EVEN IF NOT FORMALLY, RESIGN ITSELF TO A
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION THAT WOULD ENHANCE THE STANDING
OF THE PLO IN THE CONTEXT OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

2. IN JAN 8 EDITORIALS DAVAR WROTE: "FOREIGN MINISTER
YIGAL ALLON'S TALKS WITH DR. KISSINGER ARE BEING HELD
UNDER THE SIGN OF A CONCENTRATED ISRAELI EFFORT TO PRE-
VENT ANY FURTHER DIPLOMATIC RETREAT ON THE PART OF THE
US WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE STARTS NEXT WEEK...
A DIFFICULT, COMPLICATED MISSION..." AL HAMISHMAR SAID
THAT "WHAT MATTERS AT THIS POINT IS THE POSITION OF THE
US. IF THE US HAD ACTED DIFFERENTLY AT THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 30...WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SPARED THE
UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE COMING SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION.
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BUT THE US CAN STILL PUT MATTERS STRAIGHT. THE VERY

THREAT OF A US VETO MAY WELL ACT AS A DETERRENT."

3. ALSO ON JAN 8, YEDIOT AHARONOT WARNED THAT: "ALLON MUST THEREFORE BE CAUTIOUS IN ASSESSING WHAT WILL BE SAID TO HIM, BECAUSE OF OUR VARIOUS EXPERIENCES IN WASHINGTON AND IN ORDER TO SPARE US THE REGRETS THUT WERE OUR SHARE ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS." MAARIV THOUGHT IT OMINOUS THUT DR. KISSINGER HAD REFUSED TO COMMIT THE US TO AN AUTOMATIC VETO AND CONCLUDED: "IN ANY CASE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ISRAEL WILL COME OUT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WITH SOME LOSS... SOME DAMAGE WILL ALSO HAVE BEEN DONE TO THE CONFIDENCE ISRAEL HAD IN THE US. AFTER ALL, THERE IS A WRITTEN AND SIGNED DOCUMENT IN WHICH WASHINGTON UNDERTAKES TO OPPOSE ANY CHANGE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. THE RETREAT FROM THAT UNDERTAKING, SLIGHT AS IT MAY BE, CANNOT BUT AROUSE DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF AMERICAN COMMITMENTS."

4. IN JAN 9 PRESS, HAARETZ' US CORRESPONDENT (WOLF BLITZER) WRITES: "THE TALKS ARE HARD; NO ONE DENIES THAT. BUT THERE IS HOPE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WILL CONCLUDE WITHOUT SHOCKING DEVELOPMENTS. IF THAT WILL BE THE CASE, THE NEXT GREAT HURDLE WILL BE PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S VISIT IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

5. DAVAR'S POLITICAL COMMENTATOR HAGGAI ESHED THIKS IT A MISTAKE TO START OFF WITH WHAT COMES AT THE END: WHETHER THE US WILL CAST A VETO. "A SIMILAR MISTAKE IS PUTTING THE ACCENT ON AMERICAN-ISRAELI COORDINATION BEFORE AND AFTER THE COUNCIL SESSION. THE TRUTH IS, THAT THE MAIN COORDINATION AS FAR AS THE US IS CONCERNED IS THAT WITH EGYPT, AND COORDINATION WITH ISRAEL IS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE... WHEN THE AMERICANS PROPOSE COORDINATION OF STRATEGY TO ISRAEL, THEY MEAN THAT ISRAEL SHOULD ADJUST ITS MOVES TO THE ACHIEVING OF THIS AMERICAN OBJECTIVE... ACTUALLY, THERE IS NO ESSENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE JOINT AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN TARGET AND ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE AT THIS STAGE OF THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE. ON THE CONTRARY, WASHINGTON, CAIRO AND JERUSALEM ARE ALL

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NOW INTERESTED IN CONFERRING AT GENEVA, AND THEY ALL WANT TO GET AROUND THE PALESTINIAN OBSTACLE THAT LIES ON THE ROAD TO GENEVA."

6. IN AL HAMISHMAR, DALIA SH'HORI'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT: "THE SITUATION IS THEREFORE COMPLICATED AND ONE MAY ASSUME, EVEN WITHOUT BEING PRESENT AT THE KISSINGER-ALLON TALKS, THAT THERE IS A BORDERLINE BEYOND WHICH THE

US CANNOT PROMISE ISRAEL ANYTHING... AT BEST THIS AREA WHICH IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED, WILL BE LEFT OPEN FOR AD HOC DECISIONS AND FEVERISH LAST-MINUTE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS."

7. MORDECHAI OREN, ALSO IN AL HAMISHMAR, REGARDS AN AUTOMATIC US VETO AS "UNLIKELY, IN SPITE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' JOINT APPROACH TO WEIGHTY ISSUES. ONE MAY, HOWEVER, HOPE THAT THS US WILL ACT SO AS TO PREVENT A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. IT WILL OBJECT TO THE ABUSE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR IMPOSING A FORCED SOLUTION ON ISRAEL AND WILL ACT SO AS TO PRESERVE THE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. BUT-AS DR. KISSINGER HAS STRESSED-- AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF THE SOVIET-SYRIAN-PLO PROPOSALS TO THE PLENARY OF THE COUNCIL, IT WILL DEFEND ISRAEL'S CAUSE, THOUGH ALSO WITH ANEYE TO ITS STANDING IN THS ARAB WORLD. ONE MAY REASONABLY ASSUME THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN KISSINGER AND ALLON; THEY ARE SURE TO MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO OVERCOME THEM. MAY ONE HOPE THAT THE FORECAST THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL MERELY BE A STAGE FOR ONE MORE STERILE PROPAGANDA EFFORT BY ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, AND NO MORE, WILL COME TRUE? THAT DEPENDS OF COURSE, TO A DECISIVE DEGREE ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.SM"

8. YEDIOT WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KIWITY REPORTS "THAT DR. KISSINGER AND HIS ADVISERS, IN THEIR TALKS WITH ALLON AND HIS ASSISTANTS, SHOWED A MEASURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY WHICH LEFT NO ROOM FOR DOUBT THAT THE US WILL INDEED DO ITS BEST TO ACHIEVE AT LEAST THE TWO MAIN BOJECTIVES DEMANDED BY ALLON: TO PREVENT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECURITY COUNCIL FROM BECOMING THE VENUE OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS; AND TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO CONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITHOUT INVITING THE PLO." HE CITES SOURCES IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THAT "THE TRUTH IS THAT 'A COMMON COORDINATED POSITION' HAS IN EFFECT BEEN ACHIEVED, BUT BOTH SIDES INTENTIONALLY REFRAIN FROM SPECIFYING AND PUBLISHING THEIR POSSIBLE MOVES SO AS NOT TO ENABLE THE RUSSIANS AND THE ARABS TO MAKE COUNTER-MOVES IN TIME."

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